

Sage BARNEBY, who's had his share of fame,
 With this new work may greener laurels claim;
 We've seen some monographs of equal length,
 But few that mix such elegance with strength;
 So often merit's antonym to size
 That epic length we're tempted to despise
 (Thus STANDLEY wrote, with great facility,
 Long works of flawed reliability,
 And RYDBERG, who penned much with firm decision,
 Was cursed, like SMALL, with brash pedantic vision).
 So now we're grateful for this splendid book
 Which justifies the decade Rupert took;
 Amorphaea, as Barneby defines,
 Includes eight genera in its confines;
 We're startled that the *Dalea* we knew
 Was not erected by A. L. JUSSIEU
 (But after all, we got into this bind
 Because the great LINNAEUS changed his mind);
 From *Dalea* two taxa are set free:
 To *Psorothamnus* goes the fair Smoke Tree,
Marina comes back from obscurity;
 The prairie clovers (*Petalostemon*)
 Regain their petals — but their rank has gone.
 The species groups are many and compound
 But their new circumscriptions look quite sound;
 We find that the descriptions and the keys
 Are well designed, and can be used with ease.
 The many illustrations set this book apart
 Through exquisite detail of patient art:
 The author's pencil draws each plant's Gestalt
 As BAUER might have done, without a fault;
 These species portraits, polished and unique
 (Though one regrettably is forced to seek
 Each picture far removed from its own text),
 Have captions discursive and multiplex.
 Although it would have made the book more weighty,
 We miss the maps and indexed exsiccatae;
 Still, these are but inconsequential flaws
 Which need not damp our chorus of applause:
 For Barneby, with flair and art precise,
 Has wrought a masterpiece of awesome price;
 This noble guidebook to the Daleae
 Will find botanic immortality.

— GRADY L. WEBSTER, Department of Botany, University of California, Davis
 95616.

SCIENTIFIC COLLECTING IN MEXICO

In a recent interview with Lic. Juan Soto Fierro of the Departamento de la Consultoría Jurídica del Consejo Nacional de Ciencias y Tecnología, on the matter of collectors, the following rules are presented that should be observed in collecting plants, animals, and geological specimens. This message is directed especially to the Members of the Society who reside outside of Mexico. — Signed:

Biol. Magdalena Peña de Sousa, Presidente,
 Sociedad Botánica de Mexico.

As an aid to foreign scientists and the Mexican scientific community, the Consejo can help in their applications to the appropriate authorities when it is proposed to make scientific collections in Mexico. In all cases investigators should apply to the Mexican Consulate [nearest them] for entry as "No-immigrante visitante".

COLLECTING OF PLANTS, ANIMALS, AND GEOLOGICAL SPECIMENS

Application should be made three months in advance of the proposed collecting trip to Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnología (CONACYT) (Consultoría Jurídica, Lic. Margarita Peimbert) [Insurgentes Sur 1677, Apdo. Postal 20-033, Mexico 20, D.F., Mexico, telephone 5-34-80-80, Ext. 164]. CONACYT processes applications and issues permits. Applications should give the following information:

1. Name, nationality, and special interest.
2. Letter from their institution stating approval of the proposed investigation; thus an authority of the institution accepts the responsibility of sending a follow-up report.
3. Curriculum vitae.
4. General program of the work, specifying the scientific boundaries to be pursued in the project.
5. Proposed itinerary for the investigation, noting the places and routes to be followed.
6. Intended dates of the investigation.
7. Number and scientific names of the species to be collected.

Animals, Including Insects

Those collecting animals, including insects, should send in addition:

8. Two photographs of passport size.
9. A check for \$30.00 (U. S.) to "Dirección General de la Fauna Silvestre" for permission, which will be valid only for the year of the expedition.
10. The place and approximate date that they will leave Mexico in order to advise the Delegado Forestal y de Fauna in order to issue a certificate of compliance.

After completing the expedition, the investigator should do the following:

1. Send a report of the field work to CONACYT [see above] and to the Secretaría de Agricultura y Recursos Hidráulicos [Ave. Insurgentes Sur 476, Mexico 7, D.F.].
2. Send a representative series of the collections obtained.

Plants

Those collecting plants should send a specimen of each species or variety collected, with labels including scientific name, vernacular name, locality, habitat, altitude, and date of collection, plus an ecological description of the locality, to each of the following institutions:

1. Herbario Nacional del Instituto de Biología, U.N.A.M., Apdo. Postal 70-367, México 20, D.F., México.
2. Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Progreso No. 5, Coyoacán, México, D.F., México.

Also send to both of the above institutions a copy of the final report as well as any publications that result.

*** Massive collection of plants is prohibited. ***

Both Plants and Animals

Check at point of departure from Mexico with Delegado Forestal y de la Fauna and obtain certificate of having complied with the stipulations of the permit.

The Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería stipulates that failure to comply with any of the mentioned requisites will be sufficient to prevent granting of further permission either to the person in question or to the institution who recommended the investigator.

[Above translated from Macpalxichitl, the Boletín Bimestral de la Sociedad Botánica de México, Sep-Oct 1977, by Annetta Carter.]